

**SCOTTSDALE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
VERDE CONFERENCE ROOM
7575 E. MAIN STREET
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA 85251
MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2002
MINUTES**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Maura Saavedra, Chair
Ted Tyler, Vice Chair
Ken Culver, Commissioner
Carolyn Hinkle, Commissioner
Veronica Moll, Commissioner
John Tutelman, Commissioner

ABSENT: Dr. Joe Reynoso, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT: Velicia McMillan, Staff Liaison

OTHERS PRESENT FOR ALL OR PORTIONS OF THE MEETING:

Davida Schiffman Smith

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Saavedra called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL

A formal roll call confirmed members present as stated above.

MINUTES APPROVAL

March 11, 2002

VICE CHAIR TYLER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE WRITTEN MINUTES AND CONTINGENT ON ANY POSSIBILITY THERE IS A CONFLICT BETWEEN THE WRITTEN AND TAPE RECORDED MINUTES THAT THE TAPE RECORDING SHALL SUPERSEDE THE WRITTEN MINUTES. SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TUTELMAN.

THE MOTION PASSED BY A VOTE OF FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0).

SCHEDULE SHRC REGULAR MEETING DATES 2002-2003

Chair Saavedra requested that the Commissioners review the SHRC regular scheduled meeting dates and discuss re-scheduling those dates that coincide with Council Meeting and Work Study dates. It was determined that the September and December SHRC meeting dates conflict with City Council Work Study dates. The consensus of the Commission was they would change the September meeting date from September 9th to September 12th and they would keep the December meeting date.

(Commissioner Hinkle arrived at 5:25 p.m.)

**COMMISSIONER TUTELMAN MOVED TO CHANGE THE SEPTEMBER SHRC MEETING DATE FROM SEPTEMBER 9TH TO SEPTEMBER 12TH.
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CULVER.**

THE MOTION PASSED BY A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0).

HATE CRIMES PUBLIC DIALOGUE EVALUATION

Chair Saavedra requested that the Commission reviews and discusses the Combating Hate Crimes: Promoting Unity Public Dialogue held March 21, 2002. Program evaluation, as well as overall 'feel' of the program and next steps.

Ms. McMillan commented that Commissioner Moll was acknowledged for all of her involvement in the Hate Crimes forum.

Chair Saavedra commented that Commissioner Tutelman did a wonderful job.

Commissioner Tutelman noted Chair Saavedra did an outstanding job in describing the role of the Commission and introducing the Commission to the public.

Vice Chair Tyler commented that the forum was too long. He further commented that there was confusion regarding the start time. He stated there were too many speakers. He further stated he felt the keynote speaker did an amazing job. He added that he felt the two representatives from Phoenix monopolized the question and answer period to present their own agenda, which he felt, diluted the content of the meeting.

Ms. McMillan reported one thing that was pointed out in the evaluations was that there was not enough time spent on going over how to set up programs. The evaluations also indicated that everyone loved the program. She further reported that for a first year event she felt it was excellent.

Ms. McMillan stated the forum provided an excellent opportunity to network with other people who attended the meeting and form partnerships. She further stated she has a meeting with the Boys and Girls Club because they want to figure out ways to work with the SHRC.

Commissioner Hinkle stated that she felt it was an excellent program. She further stated that she agreed with Vice Chair Tyler that it was too long. She noted that one of the speakers, toward the end of the meeting, was asked to cut his talk. She further noted the speaker informed her that request flustered him. She suggested that they do not have as many speakers.

Ms. McMillan commented that perhaps they under estimated the power of the topic. She further commented they could scale down next year's forum.

Ms. McMillan reported that she received a call at home from KTAR radio at 6:00 a.m. the next morning requesting an interview. She further reported they inquired if she could provide the definition of a hate crime, which she was able to do. She further reported that she provided them with statistic on hate crimes and the interview ended on a powerful note. She commented on the importance of educating people regarding this issue.

Commissioner Moll stated she has found that in Scottsdale there are people, mostly the older generation of people,, who do not want to acknowledge there are hate crimes.

Ms. McMillan discussed her experiences when she and Ms. Linyard hand-delivered posters to all of the Scottsdale schools. She noted the southern schools were very appreciative and receptive and as they moved north the reception was cooler. She further noted that she engaged in a conversation with a parent who felt they were wasting money by having them printed in Spanish. She added that she explained the importance of printing things in Spanish is because some people do not have a support system they can rely on for information and help.

Commissioner Tuttelman stated the next step would be to put together an information packet on hate crimes and follow up with the people who attended and were invited to the event.

Vice Chair Tyler suggested they form a Partnership with Scottsdale Prevention Institute.

Ms. McMillan stated one evaluation commented on the lack of knowledge of one of the panelists referring to the Scottsdale Police Department.

Vice Chair Tyler expressed his disappointment that Chief Bartosh did not attend the forum.

Ms. McMillan commented they tried to use this as an opportunity to get the Police Department to participate more actively in the hate crimes prevention in the community.

Commission Culver stated he attended a libertarian convention last weekend and a topic of conversation was why make hate crimes different from regular assaults. Why should hate crime assaults be different and the punishment more severe. Chair Saavedra noted that Commissioner Tutelman answered that question at he forum. Commissioner

Tutelman presented information on the difference between a hate crime and a regular assault. Ms. McMillan explained when a hate crime is committed they are declaring war on a group of People who have done nothing to the person committing the crime. She further explained that it is difficult for a lot of people to see the difference. She added many people are in denial that hate crimes exist.

Commissioner Culver commented on the apathy of the white male regarding these issues. He further commented that is the group of people who are left out of the diversity discussions. Ms. McMillan stated they need to find a way to reach out to the soccer moms and the day trader dads to provide them with enough information that they want to attend these programs because this is the most vocal group.

The Commission discussed why hate crimes deserve more severe punishment and the importance of providing people information on this issue.

Ms. McMillan stated the next step might be how to get the Scottsdale Police Department more involved.

Commissioner Culver and Commission Moll shared with the Commission their negative experiences with the Scottsdale Police Department.

Ms. McMillan stated she receives calls from people that say their neighbors have called the police on them because they are black or Hispanic. She further stated that Scottsdale has the reputation that if they come to Scottsdale for the nightlife they would be involuntarily escorted out.

Commissioner Culver suggested they look at how Phoenix's Police Department handles these issues. Ms. McMillan stated that Phoenix and Scottsdale have issues. Ms. McMillan stated they do not want to antagonize the Police Department but they could provide advocacy in terms of the benefits of training.

Vice Chair Tyler stated he does not want the Commission to raise up and use the Police Department as a personal vendetta, which has been the history of the Commission for the first year. He further stated there appears to be some individual feeling that perhaps some police officers are racial profiling. He added it is his feeling that the Police Department honestly believes hate crimes are minimal in the community. He further added that he felt the Police Department and the public need education.

Commissioner Moll stated she felt that until these types of things reach another level many people don't feel it is a problem. She inquired if they should wait until it escalates.

Commissioner Tutelman stated the reason they concentrate on hate crimes and not racial profiling is because the Police Department states that they do not do it. Also providing education regarding hate crimes is a way to get the community and Police Department

involved. Ms. McMillan stated it provides opportunities for the Police Department to forge new relationships with the community.

Ms. McMillan shared with the Commission an Article that appeared in the Arizona Black Executives magazine that stated it is safer for an African American to walk the streets of South Phoenix than in Scottsdale. She expressed her disappointment that is the way Scottsdale is perceived. She further stated because of that article black executives from across the country would not relocate in Scottsdale. She added the City could look at that as lost revenue.

Commission Culver suggested that they gather information from other Police Departments in the country that has dealt with these types of issues.

The Commission discussed the fact that the first step was inviting two of the officers to speak at the forum. The Commission also discussed another step is the relationship between Commissioner Tutelman and Captain Bingham. The consensus of the Commission was their relationship should be collaborative rather than adversarial. The Commission decided to send thank you letter to the police officers with a copy of the comment cards and copy it to Chief Bartosh.

Ms. McMillan suggested that the committee meets to put closure on this program and the committee could determine the next steps. She stated she would determine a date for the committee to reconvene.

Vice Chair Tyler suggested they invite the Police Department to come to a future Commission meeting to discuss the City's policy on racial profiling.

Chair Saavedra commented she felt racial profiling is a bigger issue in Scottsdale than most people think.

Ms. McMillan shared a story about a racial profiling incident in Florida that involved Dr. Mae Jemison the first African American astronaut.

Ms. McMillan stated she that felt if the Commission sticks with one issue at a time that it would spring board into other places.

COMMISSIONER HINKLE MOVED THAT A LETTER BE DRAFTED AND SENT TO THE POLICE OFFICERS WHO HELPED WITH THE HATE CRIME FORUM THANKING THEM FOR THEIR SERVICE AND INCLUDE THE EVALUATION CARDS AND INVITING THEM TO COME TO A FOLLOW-UP MEETING. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOLL.

THE MOTION PASSED BY A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0).

Ms. McMillan reviewed the budget for the forum.

SHRC STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Ms. McMillan requested that the Commissioners review their strategic direction and make decisions that create a process for completing the final draft. She suggested that the Commissioners determine whom they would like to read the strategic directions and provide their input.

Commissioner Culver stated he has a problem with the word combat. He further stated that he felt it was not appropriate used in this context that it was too militaristic.

The Commission members have had a chance to review the text and the discussion began on Objective One under Action Items, fourth bullet, should be changed to read: Mail SHRC agenda to contact list as opposed to mailing list. It was also determined that under bullets five and six the words as necessary should be inserted.

The Commission members discussed Objective No. 3, under Action Items should read: Meetings held in facilities ADA compliant as opposed to ADA sensitive.

CHAIR REPORTS

Chair Saavedra reported that she and Commission Hinkle would be working a booth at the Yavapai Elementary School Spring Fling on April 27th. She inquired if anyone would volunteer to work with them. She further reported that they would be handing out materials and brochures. She inquired if they could borrow a bike from Commissioner Culver to attract people to their booth. Commissioner Hinkle also suggested that they pass out candy.

Davida Schiffman Smith stated they might want to contact handle bar helpers to see if they would be willing to raffle off a bike.

COMMISSIONER ITEMS

Vice Chair Tyler inquired what the other Commissioners who attended El Puente Building Bridges thought of Mary Jo Waits as a speaker. Commissioner Moll stated she did not hear all of her presentation but what she heard she felt was good.

Commission Hinkle stated she felt the keynote speaker was very good.

Commissioner Tutelman shared with the Commission information on the 2001 hate crime statistics.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Davida Schiffman Smith presented the Commission with a brochure on the Mayor and City Council Breakfast on Thursday, April 18, 2002 featuring the Honorable Ivan Makil, President, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

Chair Saavedra reported the City of Tempe is hosting the third Human Relations Commission Conversational Exchange on Tuesday April 9, 2002 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Mission Palms Hotel across from Tempe City Hall. The goal of this facilitated discussion will be to identify regional issues common to Valley cities and new opportunities to work together on a coordinated regional basis.

Ms. McMillan stated she would post this meeting just in case more than four commissioners attend.

STAFF LIAISON ITEMS

Ms. McMillan commented that the Boards and Commission reception would be held on April 23rd at WestWorld.

Ms. McMillan stated she contacted Dr. Allison but she would not be able to attend during July or August. She suggested that the Commission not program anything in July or August and just have three events a year.

Ms. McMillan reported that she confirmed Mary Jo Waits for the September 9th meeting. She further reported she would contact her to see if she is available on September 12th.

Ms. McMillan stated she felt the Commission should look into collaboration opportunities for the Hispanic Heritage Month activities. She suggested that they contact some Latino organizations and the Boys and Girls Club.

Commission Hinkle commented that Cinco De Mayo and Hispanic Heritage Month seem one and the same to her. Ms. McMillan explained the differences between the two celebrations.

Chair Saavedra recommended that they set up a subcommittee that would start meeting as soon as possible. Commissioner Hinkle, Commissioner Tutelman, and Chair Saavedra volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. Ms. McMillan suggested they bring in other people who interested.

Chair Saavedra commented that they do not have to have a big blow out festival this year.

Commissioner Tutelman suggested partnering with the library.

Ms. McMillan passed out the new Commissioner phone list.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

“For the Record” Court Reporters.